



Knightly News

Volume 3

February 2009

Number 8

Calendar of Events

Feb 13 Fourth Degree Assembly Meeting 6:30 PM Pot Luck: Mtg 7:30 PM: Nativity

Feb 14 1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM St Stephen School

Feb 14 Respect Life Rosary 5:45 AM

Feb 14 District Free Throw Competition St. Clement

Feb 18 Faith and Morals Meeting 6:30 PM Church MPR

Feb 18 VA Hospital visit 10:00 AM (contact Herb Swoope)

Feb 20 Family Social/Columbiettes Org Mtg 6:30 PM Church MPR

Feb 25 Ash Wednesday

Feb 27 Stations of the Cross (Led by Knights) 7:00 PM

Feb 28 -Mar 1 Tootsie Roll Campaign/Spring Membership Drive—Church

Feb 28 Father/Son Squire Bonfire (all invited) (Contact Tom Bailey)

Mar 4 Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR

Mar 7 3rd Degree Exemplification Candidates 11:00 Ceremony at 1:00 Lakeland

Mar 7-8 Tootsie Roll Campaign—Walmart

Mar 10 1st Degree Exemplification 7:30 PM Nativity

Mar 13 Fourth Degree Assembly Meeting 6:30 PM

Mar 18 Family Social / Blitz Orientation Org Mtg 6:30 PM Church MPR

Mar 21 1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM St. Stephen School

Mar 21-22 Christ Renews His Parish

Mar 29 Corporate Communion Mass 8:00 AM

Mar 30-Apr 1 Parish Lenten Mission

Apr 3 Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR

Apr 4 4th Degree Exemplification - Tampa

Apr 12 Easter

Apr 16-19 Spring Jubilee

Apr 25 1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM St Stephen School



Officers

Grand Knight

Julio Alvarez, Jr

Deputy Grand Knight

Chuck Lusky

Chancellor

Jerry Westbrock

Warden

Greg Celestan

Treasurer

John Sepessy

Advocate

Jim Kelly

Recorder

Paul Crescimone

Inside Guard

John Columbia III

Outside Guard

Dan Laughman

Anthony Giaccone

Trustees

Three Years- *Rick Hughes, PGK*

Two Years—*Nick Turco, PGK*

One Year-*Ed Milius, PGK*

Field Agents

Thomas P. Cummings III

813-625-2444

Email: Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

Directors & Chairs

Membership Director

Darin O'Neal

Program Director

Chuck Lusky

Church Committee

Matt Preszler

Community Committee

Herb Swoope

Council Committee

Scott Sheffield

Family Committee

John Montaldo

Youth Committee

Tom Bailey

Degree Team Captain

Rick Hughes

Public Relations

Greg Grambor

RJS Concessions Contact

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Newsletter Editor

Nick Turco

Columbian Squires Counselors

Rob Fisher

Tom Bailey

Resource Links**Council Web Site**

www.kofc14084.org

Florida State Council

www.floridastatecouncil.com

Supreme Council:

www.kofc.org



Grand Knight's Report

Julio Alvarez, Jr
Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com

To my Brother Knights *and your Families*:

As another busy month passes by, I once again thank each and every one of you and your families for your participation in the KofC events that have contributed to our Parish and Community. Note-worthy this past month were the wake and funeral for our departed Brother and Sir Knight John Joyce, our hosting of the District 35 Meeting, completion and submission of our Annual Fraternal Survey, Bell Shoals Road Cleanup, 1st Degree Exemplification at Mother Seton Council, our well-attended Second Degree Exemplification at St Stephen School, completion of our Semi-Annual Audit, work done at Jennifer Bergen's home, assistance with the Church cleanup day, our short-notice change Family Pot Luck Social, the annual Basketball Free Throw competition and awards ceremony and the herculean final fundraising effort at Raymond James Stadium at Superbowl XLIII. All these events were accomplished

with the infectious enthusiasm and dedication for which you have all become well known. I thank each and every participant!

I want to take this time to once again invite all you brothers who've been 'away' to take the opportunity during the next few months to come and 'check us out'. We pray for all of you and want you to be a part of our exciting council. Each member and his family contribute immensely to who we are and what we are able to achieve, so I extend my hand to you and ask that you put aside any 'fear' of participating in the life of our Council. We really do miss you and I think when you do come you will feel that same welcoming spirit that moved you to join our Order and this awesome council.

Let me briefly highlight some very important events requiring assistance from as many brothers and families as possible. I do, however, want to encourage you to habitually check our

calendar of events which is posted on our website at www.kofc14084.org and updated regularly. As the Season of Lent approaches, we have opted to take a very close look at our Calendar and focus on a few important events, spiritual and social; however, also focusing on maintaining a balance that ensures you spend quality time with your family and concentrate on faith formation. I realize my outlining this schedule may be somewhat redundant; however, I want to highlight some key events we have planned for the next few months that I request you try to attend:

FEBRUARY

Feb 10 (Tue) & Feb 12 (Thu): 6:45 pm - Greeters for **CONFIRMATION MASSES** (St Stephen Church)

Feb 14 (Sat): 9 am - **FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION** *Fr John will be joining (St Stephen School)

Feb 18 (Wed): 7:30 pm - **FAITH & MORALS PRESENTATION** (S/K Jerry Hoffman presenter)

Feb 27 (Fri): 6:30 pm - **FAMILY POT LUCK SOCIAL (Mardi Gras Theme)** - (St Stephen Church)

Feb 28 (Sat) - Mar 1 (Sun) - **TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE & MEMBERSHIP BLITZ** (St Stephen Church)

MARCH

Mar 4 (Wed): 6:20 pm-**BLITZ ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Mar 7 (Sat) & Mar 8 (Sun): **TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE** (Walmart, Bloomingdale Square)

Mar 18 (Wed): 7:30 pm - **MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE & FAMILY PIZZA SOCIAL** (St Stephen Church)

Mar 21 (Sat): 9 am - **BLITZ FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION** (St Stephen School)

Mar 29 (Sun): 8 am - **FOUNDERS DAY CORPORATE COMMUNION** (St Stephen Church)

APRIL

* **CHANGE: Apr 2 (Thu)**: 6:20 pm- Admissions Committee; 8 pm- Business Meeting (St Stephen Church)

NOTE: Please note that there are significant periods (after April 2nd) which we have designated as **BLOCKED FOR PLANNING**. Aside from the events found currently listed on the calendar, we are attempting to keep the schedule light as we complete Holy Week and gear up for the SPRING JUBILEE (April 16-19) and then the week immediately following.

Have a Blessed Month!

Fraternally,
Julio



Family of the Month Rita and John Joyce

We honor the Joyce's, who through their involvement in the council, have had a unifying effect on our organization. We also want to pay tribute to Rita for the strength and courage that she demonstrated in dealing with John's recent passing. She inspires all of us.



Knight of the Month Jim English

For his active involvement and support in nearly every Knight's event including degree ceremonies and Raymond James Stadium fund raising

Congratulations John and Fran Cirello

Who renewed their wedding vows on their 50th anniversary

Keep in our Prayers

- SK Christopher Fisher died January 24th. Christopher was a Life member of our 1850 fourth Degree Assembly and was 95 years old.
- Herb Swoope who is recovering from a successful surgery mid-January
- Ed Slezak's sister, Marianne who is struggling with lung cancer.
- Bernie Loughlan who is dealing with MS
- For Rick Hughes and his family as they continue to deal with their difficult, personal, family situation
- For Brother Tom Bailey and his continued recovery.
- Brother Ramon Lozano, and his paralyzed wife, who Ramon has been taking care of for a very long time as her primary caregiver.
- Curt Davis who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
- All Knights that are in financial distress



Chaplain's Report

My Brothers,



As Knights of Columbus, we know that our first obligation is to be holy men of God. In today's world, this is no small feat as we combat the pressures of our society to conform and try to balance our needs with those of our family, work, church, and community. The Season of Lent is intended by the Church to be a help to us on our spiritual journey. It reminds us to put first things first and to engage in some "Spring Training." In fact, the word "Lent" has its roots in the old German word for "Spring". As Christian fathers, we realize that we are also called to be the "team captains" of our families and do what we can to foster the spiritual growth of each member of the family.

So how can we do this? The Church encourages us to return to the basics. The fundamentals of a Christian life are pretty clear - to follow Christ. Thankfully, Jesus left us an instruction manual, called the Bible. This Lent, why not read a little from the Bible each and every day? Since this is the year of St. Mark, begin with his Gospel. It is only 16 chapters long. Before you read it, ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Read a short passage and then ask the Lord to help you to understand how you can incorporate this truth into your life. Remember, each word of the Bible is important and all of it is intended to help you to grow in God's grace. You may want to read the passage together as a family over breakfast and during the evening meal share how that passage touched our life throughout the day. In addition to daily prayer and meditation on the Sacred Scriptures, you may also want to make a commitment to participate in Mass each day and to go to confession on a monthly basis.

Rev Bill Swengros
689-4900
pastor@ststephencatholic.org

In addition to prayer, another help is fasting. Christian fasting is not dieting nor is it a means of self-discovery as it is in other religions. The objective is to discover God through self-discipline. We unite ourselves to Christ who fasted for 40 days and nights, entering solidarity with the poor, and develop a sense of self-control. By dying to self, we come to live more fully in Christ. In an age of unbridled self-gratification and self-medication, fasting enables us to shift our attention from meeting our own wants to meeting the needs of others. It is a way of emptying ourselves so that there is more room for God. In addition to abstaining from meat on Fridays, we may really want to fast - limiting ourselves to the equivalent of one meal. Perhaps it would be more helpful for us to fast from foul language, alcohol, tobacco, pornography, television, workaholism, perfectionism, impatience ... you get the idea. Fasting may also involve choosing to do something positive - keeping Sunday the Sabbath day for quality time with God and your family, regular family meals, or volunteering to help with your child's extracurricular activities. Just think of how this type of fasting would renew your life?

Finally, Lent is a time to reach out to those in need - almsgiving. As prayer pertains to our relationship with God and fasting pertains to the need to balance our needs and wants, almsgiving pertains to the virtue of charity or care for others. There are many opportunities to serve through our Council. Be involved. We are blessed with hundreds of members in our Council, yet the same few seem to be active in most of our charitable activities. Why not make a commitment to participate in at least one event during the next 40 days of Lent? You'll be glad you did!

Lent is basic training 101. Now is the time to take a step back and to look at ourselves and ask: How can I become a better Christian man? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are tried and true means of growing in holiness. May this Lent be a Spring time for you and your family.

In His Peace,

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain



Membership Report

Please congratulate Brian Swetnan, Michael Grogan, Shawn Ryan and David Dozier who became Second degree Knights in our Council on Saturday, January 17, 2009 in the Exemplification held at St. Stephen School.

02-14-09 First Degree Exemplification at St Stephen School.

We are indeed excited at the honor of having Father John enter the ranks of Knighthood at our FIRST DEGREE to occur on Saturday, February 14, 2009, 9 am at St Stephen Catholic School. Approved Candidates with Sponsors are expected to arrive no later than **8 am** with observing members arriving no later than 8:50 am. **Dress Code is Casual.** Questions about Admissions should be directed to our Admissions Coordination Team Leader, **Sir Knight Bill Queenan** at Email: admissions@kofc14084.org, Phone: **833-8137.**

There will be a **Third Degree Exemplification** on Saturday February 28th, 2009 in Lakeland at Resurrection Church hall - at the church site at Terrace Way and old Highway 37. We usually meet at St Stephen and depart via carpool. Dress code: Coats and ties are required, no shorts allowed. Candidates are to report between 11:00 am and 12:00 noon with a current 2nd Degree membership card in order to be eligible to take the 3rd degree. The card must be signed and the degree will start promptly at 1:00 pm . Second Degree Members who have completed requirements for approval as a candidate for Advancement to the Second Degree must coordinate with their sponsor and contact our Third Degree Coordina-

tion Team Leader, **Sir Knight Greg Cestestan** at Email: 3rddegree@kofc14084.org, Phone: **655-4007.**

February 28, Starts our Membership Blitz
We will have Knights giving out information about our Organization and the Knights. This is a good time to recruit men into our council and the purpose of the Blitz. I will need Knights to help man the doors before and after mass all weekend. Please wear your name tags.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUR ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS!

Being a Knight means being involved and learning about our Order, our Principles, and most importantly... learning to better practice our Faith. I encourage each and every one of you, whether working towards a degree or sponsoring a potential Candidate, to make the effort to grow as a Knight by taking an active part in achieving the requirements to advancement in the Order.

Finally, please continue your efforts to build the Council and the Order by recruiting **quality** Catholic Gentlemen with the energy and spirit to make a difference in our Community.

Fraternally,
Darin
Membership Director
Knights of Columbus St Stephen Council
#14084
Phone: 671-1833

Council Website Upgrades

As announced at the last council meeting, Shawn Ryan is making a series of improvements to the council's web site. One of the enhancements, a council directory that each member can update as changes occur, will soon be ready for use. You will need to register on the website. Please go to the web site www.kofc14084.org to login and register. If you have any problems, please email Shawn at mrshawster@gmail.com



Fraternal Agent's Report

Brothers,

Once again the Knights of Columbus Insurance Programs have reached a new level of success in 2008 with more than \$70 Billion of coverage now in place on our members and their families. In a year when many commercial insurers have struggled, our Fraternal Benefits have continued to grow. We remain one of only five Major Insurers with Standard and Poors AAA rating, A.M.Best A++, and the IMSA seal. We remain focused on Fr. McGivney's vision of protection of our families. Our annuities have seen unprecedented growth as the equity markets have faltered.

I have now handled 136 Death Claims as an agent. Oh the lessons I have learned about Estate Liquidation in that process. Most executors have little or no guidance, don't have an inventory of assets and are overwhelmed with trying to organize the necessary information.

Make it easier for your executor, or if you are to be the executor of someone else's estate, act now.

Prepare an Important Information for Survivors and Beneficiaries document listing information about assets, key contacts, location of important papers.

If you want a free brochure that the Knights of Columbus have prepared for just this purpose, call or email me for a copy.

Fraternally,

Tom

Committee Reports

Council Activities

- I'd like to recognize our newest Program members and thank the Holy Spirit for stirring the call to serve within them - Gene Batronie, Jim Pryor, Francis Xavier, and Francis Mejia. You are welcome and appreciated!
- We are in the planning stages for our Ladies' Appreciation Night. If you have any suggestions on a location, one that preferably has a large kitchen, please contact me.
- The State Bowling Tournament is April 18 and 19th in Lakeland. You must register by March 10th - let me know if you are interested and I will send you the forms.
- Wear your badge to Mass and introduce yourself to brothers you don't know! If you are new to the Council or need a replacement, contact Anthony Giaccone at 813-927-6403 and he can assist you.

Scott Sheffield
sheff9@gmail.com
813-352-1223



Committee Reports

Youth Activities

Brothers,



January was an incredible month. To start off this month the squires had one of the best meetings yet. We rotate the directors

every 6 months to give everyone a chance to learn as much as possible. Here is the list of our new directors:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Tom Berrie | Circle Director |
| Christian Taliento | Service Director |
| Ian White | Spiritual Director |
| Christian Mowery | Membership Director |

We are looking forward to a lot of great things from these boys and so far they are not disappointing us. As you all have heard we already have a Circle event planned, the Bonfire on February 28th at 6PM. In addition our Spiritual Director, Ian, has already started to plan our Spiritual Retreat. As if all of that wasn't incredible enough, we also had our very first Investiture ceremony! The Investiture ceremony is how the boys become squires, similar to our First Degree Ceremony. In this ceremony we brought in 3 new boys. This is a really GREAT start to 2009



and we are very impressed by the boys.



I also have some more incredible news from our Youth committee. This month we were able to put together a very, very good Basketball Free Throw Competition. We started out the day during recess at St. Stephen School where we had 36 contestants and finished up with 4 more contestants from the Religious education kids that evening. It was an incredible day that started with a rush of kids ready to shoot some hoops. We had some REAL competitors, which gave us 4 shoot outs, including one shoot out between two of our squires, Ian White and Todd Jackson. The District Free



Throw Competition is on February 14th at 10AM at St. Clement church. So, as soon as you are done supporting our newest members going through their first degree jump in your car and head on over to St. Clement to support the competitors from our Council.

Esto Dignus
Vivat Jesus
Brother Rob



Committee Reports

Community Activities



Respect Life Rosary: (Woman's Abortion Clinic) is scheduled for February 14, 2009 6:00 a.m. The council is looking for a couple to assist helping the Respect Life program. If you are interested please contact Herbert Swoope at 813-628-0699 or E-Mail hswoope@msn.com.



"Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities"

One of the most popular and successful programs conducted by Knights of Columbus state and local councils for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities is the fund-raiser in which councils collect donations outside stores and on street corners. In appreciation, the donor is offered a candy bar, a Tootsie Roll. The high visibility of this program has led to the campaign being referred to as the "Tootsie Roll Drive."

Our "Tootsie Roll Drive." Will start on February 28, and February 1, 2009 at St. Stephen's church after each Mass. On February 7, 8, 2009 we will be collection donations at the Mal-Mart on Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals. There will be more information coming out for sing up times. Please take time our to support important event.



Serving Those Who Served

visits the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Nursing Home, and Fisher House. Our Assembly believes that the Knights of Columbus are dedicated to the principle of patriotism, and has led the Order in this effort through the "Serving Those Who Served" program. Our nation was formed for "God and Country". It is now our obligation to aid these valiant veterans. Our efforts are to maintain contact with active, injured, nursing home residents and retired military and their families. The Order is dedicated to visiting and supplying needed items that are not readily available to them.

We visit the Haley Hospital, Nursing Home and Fisher House every other month. Our next visit will be **February 18, 2009** at 10:00 a.m.. We meet in front of the Nursing Home. For further information please contact Herbert Swoope 813-628-0699 or e-mail hswoope@msn.com

Items Needed

Cloth Wheelchair Bags for the "back" of wheelchairs, with loops or tie strings sewn in at the top on both sides, size 18" x 12"; Cloth, Foley Catheter Bags with drawstring across the top, size 16" x 10", and Ditty Bags 12" x 12".

DVD and VHS movies

VA canteen coupon books

Magazines (less than three months old)

Unused cell phones.

God Bless
Herbert Swoope
Community Director

The Knights of Columbus Assembly 1850